



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BOARD APPROVES KEY STEP IN FLORENCE-FIRESTONE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Parking Structure Is Part of Strategic Vision for Neighborhood

Los Angeles—The Board of Supervisors today approved an application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for funds to acquire a parcel of land for parking and other uses along Florence Avenue as part of Los Angeles County's comprehensive redevelopment plan for the Florence-Firestone neighborhood. Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas has made the improvement of the Florence-Firestone area a key priority, recently funding streetscape enhancements and opening a Constituent Service Center that gives residents access to vital government and community services.

"Florence Avenue is a classic American 'main street' that we are bringing back to life through significant reinvestment and community input," said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas. "Thousands of residents are now able to receive services at the Florence-Firestone Constituent Service Center, and many more benefit from major streetscape and building improvements along the avenue. This parking lot will be an additional asset at the heart of the Florence Avenue business district

and will give us an opportunity to expand our County library and invite other public-serving agencies into the community.”

The Florence-Firestone neighborhood has nearly 80,000 residents, making it one of Los Angeles County’s most populous unincorporated areas. Supervisor Ridley-Thomas, in cooperation with Supervisor Gloria Molina and Metro, has worked with the community to draft and implement a comprehensive Vision Plan for the area. The project is part of Supervisor Ridley-Thomas’ “Town Center” strategy, which seeks to create dynamic civic and commercial centers in the Second District’s unincorporated areas through targeted infrastructure investment and increased local access to government services. In addition to capital improvements, the County has worked with local businesses to share the cost of façade improvements to beautify building exteriors along the area’s main commercial corridor.

For more information on the Florence-Firestone redevelopment project, including the \$5.4 million Constituent Service Center that opened in June 2010, visit <http://ridley-thomas.lacounty.gov/>

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